



## **Meeting Minutes – Class Advisory Senate, 18 July 2023 - FINAL**

**1. Call to Order:** Randy Helms '79, called the meeting to order at 1701.

**2. Members in Attendance:** See Attachment 1

**3. Others in Attendance:**

Colonel Michael S. Cornelius, '00, Commander US Air Force Academy Preparatory School

Cathy Almond '90, Vice Chair, USAFA AOG Board of Directors

Naviere Walkewicz, '99, Senior Vice President, USAFA AOG Alumni Relations and  
Business Development

Mark Hille, '97, President, USAFA AOG & AFAF

Felecia Recker '98, Senior Director, Alumni Programs

**4. Previous Minutes:**

Correction to Previous minutes, 18 April 2023: Paragraph 9, Third Bullet, Third sub-bullet: Should read: Additional Reunions: 1965 in San Antonio, TX; Classes 61+ years post-graduation in July; Class of 1963 Reunion at USAFA in August; Class of 1978 in November in Colorado Springs/Denver.

<https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/casminutes-18april2023meeting--final.pdf>

**5. Randy Helms, '79, President Class Advisory Senate:**

- Randy introduced the guest speaker, Colonel Michael “Baja” Cornelius, '00, Commander, USAFA Preparatory School. He is uniquely qualified to be the Prep School Commander, having been a Prep School graduate in 1996; he is the first Prep School Grad to command the Prep School.

**6. Colonel Michael S. “Baja” Cornelius, '00, Commander USAF Academy Preparatory School. (See attached slides):**

The Prep School was established 15 May 1961 to ‘Afford worthy enlisted men in the Army and Air Force who wish to enter the AF Academy, who, because of their military service and other reasons, were unable to compete with their peers in civilian life.’

# ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



- Colonel Cornelius provided his Commander's briefing on the Prep School, including a list of some notable graduates: the 80<sup>th</sup> Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, General Robin Rand, Lt General Mike Gould, Astronaut Colonel Loren Schriver. The first class had 200 candidates enter, of which 53% were offered appointments.
- He explained that today, there are about 240 candidates that enter each year, go through a 21-day basic training, and then a ten-month academic, military and athletic program, with about 76% being offered an appointment at graduation.
- The Prep School's mission is to prepare a diverse pool of Cadet Candidates to provide the best source of non-direct entry Cadets to USAFA. (Ref is AF Diversity and Inclusion Mission, AFI 36-7001).
- Colonel Cornelius stated that the Prep School is organized similarly to the Academy itself, scaled down for student size.
- Candidates are required to maintain a > 2.0 CUM to graduate, and > 2.42 Cum GPA and  $\geq$  2.0 Cum GPA in each subject area, for appointment recommendation. They are also required to maintain a > 200 point Physical Fitness Test (PFT), demonstrate aptitude to follow and lead, and demonstrate strong moral and ethical traits (Exceptional conduct, and Integrity, Service and Excellence).
- Col Cornelius stated that the Cadet Wing consists of approximately 16% Preppies.
- Academics consist of English, Math and Science. They are not impacted by accreditation requirements as is the USAFA.
- There are four uniformed athletic sports [football, wrestling, basketball - men and women, and soccer (co-ed)]; plus physical education.
- There are three military training squadrons. Aviation has been added in the last couple of years.
  - Aviation is a voluntary program based on academic performance; however, it cannot impact the core academic mission; the focus is on experiencing aviation and "airmindedness". There is a four-tiered approach: Private pilot certification, FAA simulator with ground school, VR lab, and orientation flights.
- He briefed that military training focuses on building the basics through Basic Military Training, followership, leadership, living honorably, and character and culture development.
- Colonel Cornelius showed an artist conception of the rebuilding and updating of the Prep School Campus. It is the USAFA's #2 MILCON priority.
- He stated that the Prep School has an \$800K annual budget, of which about half goes to athletics. They get very good support from the current Supt. They are currently updating their IT resources for the cadets by purchasing 200 new computers; there is



also a “hand-me-down” approach to computer capability on the campus, to gain additional computers.

- Some questions that were asked, and answers:
  - Do they have an honor code? It is closely aligned but is not the same; infractions are handled differently than the Cadet Honor Code.
  - Academically, last year was the highest academic average GPA at 3.02. He attributed this to their focus on getting academic help identified early and organized for those that needed it.
  - Can and do the preppies attend USAFA academic classes? YES.

#### **7. Naviere Walkewicz, '99, Senior Vice President, USAFA AOG Alumni Relations and Business Development (See attached update slides)**

- Naviere briefed details of the Long Blue Line Leadership Conference and Weekend (formerly known as the Chapter President Conference), the “1-Day, 1-USAFA” Foundation Fundraising effort, and Upcoming Events.
- The Long Blue Line Weekend will begin 26 July 23 at the Dean’s house and continue at Polaris Hall on 27 July. Its purpose is to cultivate a stronger, informed and more connected graduate network.
- “1-Day, 1-USAFA” is the Foundation’s annual day of giving. The goal is to have 2,000 grads donate any fund at any amount.
- She provided an update on upcoming reunions.
  - 14-16-September: 1968, 2013;
  - 28-30 September: 1973, 1983, 1998, 2003;
  - 12-14 October: 1988, 1993;
  - *2-4 November: 1978, 1959-1962 – modified.*
- She reminded everyone that the Army game this Fall is in Denver at Empower Field (old Mile High Stadium) on 4 Nov 2023. The AOG is planning a graduate social, and tailgate for the game.
- The AOG is also planning a graduate social and tailgate at the Navy game this year in Annapolis, MD.

#### **8. Other Business / Round Table:**

- Randy Helms, '79 announced that the Senate will ask the new Commandant, Brig Gen Gavin P. Marks, '96, to brief the Senate in 2024, after he settles into his new job as Commandant.



**9. Randy Helms, '79, CAS President, gave brief closing comments:**

- He thanked Senators for their continued support. He then adjourned the meeting.

**10. Next Meetings:**

- AOG Board, 11 August 2023
- CAS Executive Committee, 5 September 2023
- CAS, 17 October 2023
- CAS Schedule: <https://aog-websites.s3.amazonaws.com/usafa-org/documents/aog/governance/CAS/New+Schedule+July+2022.pdf>

**11. Close/Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1837.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Hayden '74, CAS Secretary

Minutes approved by: Randy Helms '79, CAS President

**Attachments:**

1. Members in Attendance
2. Prep School slides
3. AOG Update slides